

414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau



Photos (2) by David Ruderman

Bundesgrenzschutz (German Border Guards) block access to Pioneer Kaserne during an anti-American demonstration by NPD marchers March 31. While the heavy presence of German security forces ensured there was no violence, Army security officials reminded American community members to avoid such actions and to refrain from any kind of counter-demonstration.

Demonstrators march on Pioneer

By David Ruderman

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

War brings out the best in some and the worst in others.

In Hanau March 31 it brought out four groups of demonstrators, among them about 150 members and supporters of the National Partei Deutschland, ideological successors to the Nazi government that ruled Germany from 1933 to 1945.

The NPD demonstrators assembled at the Hanau main train station and marched under heavy Polizei and Bundesgrenzschutz escort toward Pioneer Kaserne. They were followed by a group of about 60 anti-fascist demonstrators. Over 200 German security officers secured bridges and overpasses on the march route and kept the groups physically separated to avoid violent interactions.

Bundestrass 8, the two-lane road that connects Hanau with Wolfgang and other suburbs was closed to automobile traffic for several hours. Affected American caserns were shut for the duration of the protest.

The NPD marchers chanted anti-American, anti-war and anti-globalization slogans, and broadcast similar, sometimes provocative musical messages from three different sound trucks. At one point demonstrators chanted "Freiheit für Irak, Freiheit für Palestina, Freiheit für Deutschland" [freedom for Iraq, freedom for Palestine, freedom for Germany].

Many carried Iraqi and NPD flags, banners denouncing the American attack on Iraq and various other paraphernalia, including white crosses marked with the names of supposed sites of American "atrocities" against the peoples of the world.

As they passed the western edge of Pioneer Kaserne heading to the main gate, the demonstrators spied a small group of Ameri-

cans barbecuing behind Building 2 and revved up their chants and taunts. At the main entrance, completely cordoned by a phalanx of BGS officers, the NPD group rallied for short speeches that included calls for American troops to leave Germany.

A group of about 40 Americans gathered behind Building 301 to wave Old Glory and show support for their fellow Americans fighting in Iraq, though this is strictly prohibited by regulation.

Dealing with demos

"Army Regulation 600-1 prohibits soldiers, government civilian employees and family members from making any form of public protest or demonstration," said Lt. Col. Howard L. Malone, 104th Area Support Group provost marshal. "Maj. Gen. Sanchez [Maj. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, 1st Armored Division commander] is putting out a memo under his signature telling everyone that this behavior, while seemingly patriotic, is counter-productive and prohibited. It is also punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice for soldiers, and the civilian misconduct regulation for civilian employees and family members."

The other three demonstrations in Hanau the same day were by student and Turkish groups with anti-war messages, and the anti-fascists who marched against the NPD marchers. Protests are likely to recur in future, and American community members should avoid them whenever possible and refrain from any kind of demonstration in response, regardless of how galling they may be.

"The bottom line for demonstrations is to avoid them completely, even if they come up to the fence just outside your quarters, like last weekend. People should distance themselves as much as possible from these things for their own safety," said Malone.



NPD demonstrators on their way to Pioneer Kaserne carry white crosses marked with the names of countries that have supposedly been the sites of past American "atrocities."



Bulletin board

At the movies April 15 to May 1

Baumholder, Wagon Wheel

April 15 — Darkness Falls (R) 7 p.m.
April 16-17 — Confessions Of A Dangerous Mind (R) 7 p.m.
April 18-20 — The Hunted (R) 7 p.m.
April 21-22 — Biker Boyz (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 23-24 — Final Destination 2 (R) 7 p.m.
April 25-27 — Dreamcatcher (R) 7 p.m.
April 28-29 — Shanghai Knights (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 30 — The Recruit (PG-13) 7 p.m.
May 1 — The Recruit (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Büdingen, Little

April 18 — A Guy Thing (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 19 — Kangaroo Jack (PG) 3 p.m.
April 25 — Darkness Falls (R) 7 p.m.
April 26 — Confessions Of A Dangerous Mind (R) 3 p.m.

Dexheim, Rhein

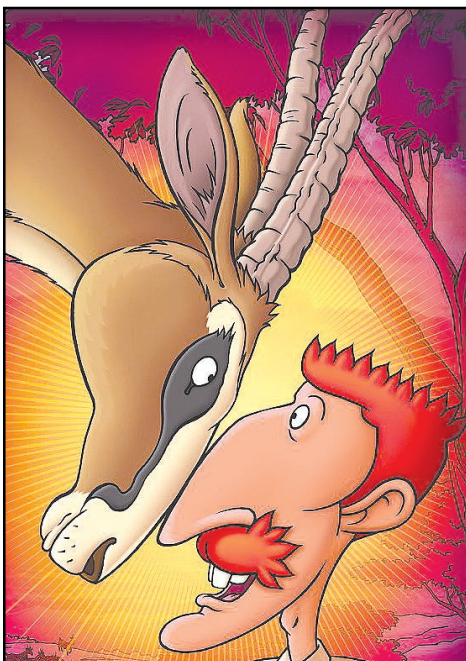
April 18 — Final Destination 2 (R) 7 p.m.
April 19 — Dreamcatcher (R) 7 p.m.
April 20 — The Wild Thornberrys (PG) 3 p.m.
April 25 — Confessions Of A Dangerous Mind (R) 7 p.m.
April 26 — About Schmidt (R) 7 p.m.
April 27 — The Core (PG-13) 3 p.m.

Friedberg, Old Ironsides

April 17 — Darkness Falls (R) 7 p.m.
April 18 — Tears Of The Sun (R) 7 p.m.
April 19 — Confessions Of A Dangerous Mind (R) 7 p.m.
April 20 — Tears Of The Sun (R) 7 p.m.
April 24 — Narc (R) 7 p.m.
April 25 — The Hunted (R) 7 p.m.
April 26 — Final Destination 2 (R) 7 p.m.
April 27 — The Hunted (R) 7 p.m.
May 1 — Biker Boyz (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Giessen, Skyline

April 15-16 — Cradle 2: The Grave (R) 7 p.m.
April 18-19 — Final Destination 2 (R) 7 p.m.
April 20 — Biker Boyz (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 22-23 — Tears Of The Sun (R) 7 p.m.
April 25 — Shanghai Knights (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 26 — The Recruit (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 27 — About Schmidt (R) 7 p.m.
April 29-30 — The Hunted (R) 7 p.m.



Filmmaker Nigel Thornberry meets one of his daughter's friends in "The Wild Thornberrys."



Delroy Lindo is Dr. Ed Brazzelton, an inventor whose subterranean traveling craft is key to saving the Earth in the sci-fi thriller "The Core."

Hanau, Evening Star

April 15 — Confessions Of A Dangerous Mind (R) 7 p.m.
April 16 — Darkness Falls (R) 7 p.m.
April 17 — Confessions Of A Dangerous Mind (R) 7 p.m.
April 18 — What A Girl Wants (PG) 7 p.m. Final Destination 2 (R) 9:30 p.m.
April 19 — What A Girl Wants (PG) 7 p.m. The Guru (R) 9:30 p.m.
April 20 — What A Girl Wants (PG) 7 p.m.
April 21 — Biker Boyz (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 22 — Final Destination 2 (R) 7 p.m.
April 23 — Biker Boyz (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 24 — Final Destination 2 (R) 7 p.m.
April 25 — Anger Management (PG-13) 7 p.m. About Schmidt (R) 9:30 p.m.
April 26 — Anger Management (PG-13) 7 p.m. The Recruit (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
April 27 — Anger Management (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 28 — Shanghai Knights (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 29 — About Schmidt (R) 7 p.m.
April 30 — The Recruit (PG-13) 7 p.m.
May 1 — Shanghai Knights (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Rhein Main, Gardens

April 16 — The Core (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 18 — The Hunted (R) 7 p.m.
April 19 — Biker Boyz (PG-13) 5 p.m. Final Destination 2 (R) 7:30 p.m.
April 20 — Two Weeks Notice (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 23 — What A Girl Wants (PG) 7 p.m.
April 25 — Shanghai Knights (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 26 — The Recruit (PG-13) 5 p.m. About Schmidt (R) 7:30 p.m.
April 27 — Dreamcatcher (R) 7 p.m.
April 30 — Anger Management (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Wackernheim, McCully

April 16 — Confessions Of A Dangerous Mind (R) 7 p.m.

April 23 — Final Destination 2 (R) 7 p.m.
April 30 — Biker Boyz (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Wiesbaden, Flyers

April 17 — The Core (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 18 — Biker Boyz (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 19 — Final Destination 2 (R) 7 p.m.
April 24 — What A Girl Wants (PG) 7 p.m.
April 25 — Shanghai Knights (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 26 — About Schmidt (R) 7 p.m.
May 1 — Anger Management (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Wiesbaden, Taunus

April 15 — Darkness Falls (R) 7 p.m.
April 16 — Narc (R) 7 p.m.
April 17 — Confessions Of A Dangerous Mind (R) 7 p.m.
April 18 — Final Destination 2 (R) 7 p.m. The Core (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
April 19 — The Wild Thornberrys (PG) 4 p.m. The Core (PG-13) 7 p.m. Biker Boyz (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
April 20 — The Core (PG-13) 4 and 7 p.m.
April 21 — Final Destination 2 (R) 7 p.m.
April 22 — Narc (R) 7 p.m.
April 23 — Biker Boyz (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 24 — Final Destination 2 (R) 7 p.m.
April 25 — What A Girl Wants (PG) 7 p.m. About Schmidt (R) 9:30 p.m.
April 26 — What A Girl Wants (PG) 4 p.m. The Recruit (PG-13) 7 p.m. Shanghai Knights (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
April 27 — What A Girl Wants (PG) 4 p.m. About Schmidt (R) 7 p.m.
April 28 — What A Girl Wants (PG) 7 p.m.
April 29 — About Schmidt (R) 7 p.m.

Movies and times subject to change by local theaters. For the most up-to-date schedule visit the ASG's website (see address below).

Movie plots

About Schmidt (R) — Jack Nicholson plays the title role of a middle aged man who arrives at a number of intersecting cross-roads. The death of his wife, the end of a career, the long distance adoption of an orphan and a road trip to Nebraska convince him the new purpose of his life is to stop his daughter's impending marriage. Also stars Kathy Bates and Hope Davis

The Wild Thornberrys (PG) — This animated film follows the adventures of Eliza Thornberry, the 12-year-old daughter of world famous nature documentary filmmakers who can communicate with animals. In a series of adventures that lead from the Serengeti Plain to London and back to Africa, Eliza must come to terms with the good, the bad and the unknowable to save her animal friends from poachers.

The Core (PG-13) — For reasons unknown the Earth's inner core has stopped rotating with potentially disastrous repercussions for life on the planet. Temperamental geophysicists, nuclear weapons experts and inventors must band together to travel to the center of the earth to save the world.

What A Girl Wants (PG) — Daphne Reynolds (Amanda Bynes) has what every girl wants, or so it seems. Her impulsive decision to upset the reality she knows to fulfill the dream of meeting the father she never knew catapults her into another world. Also stars Colin Firth.

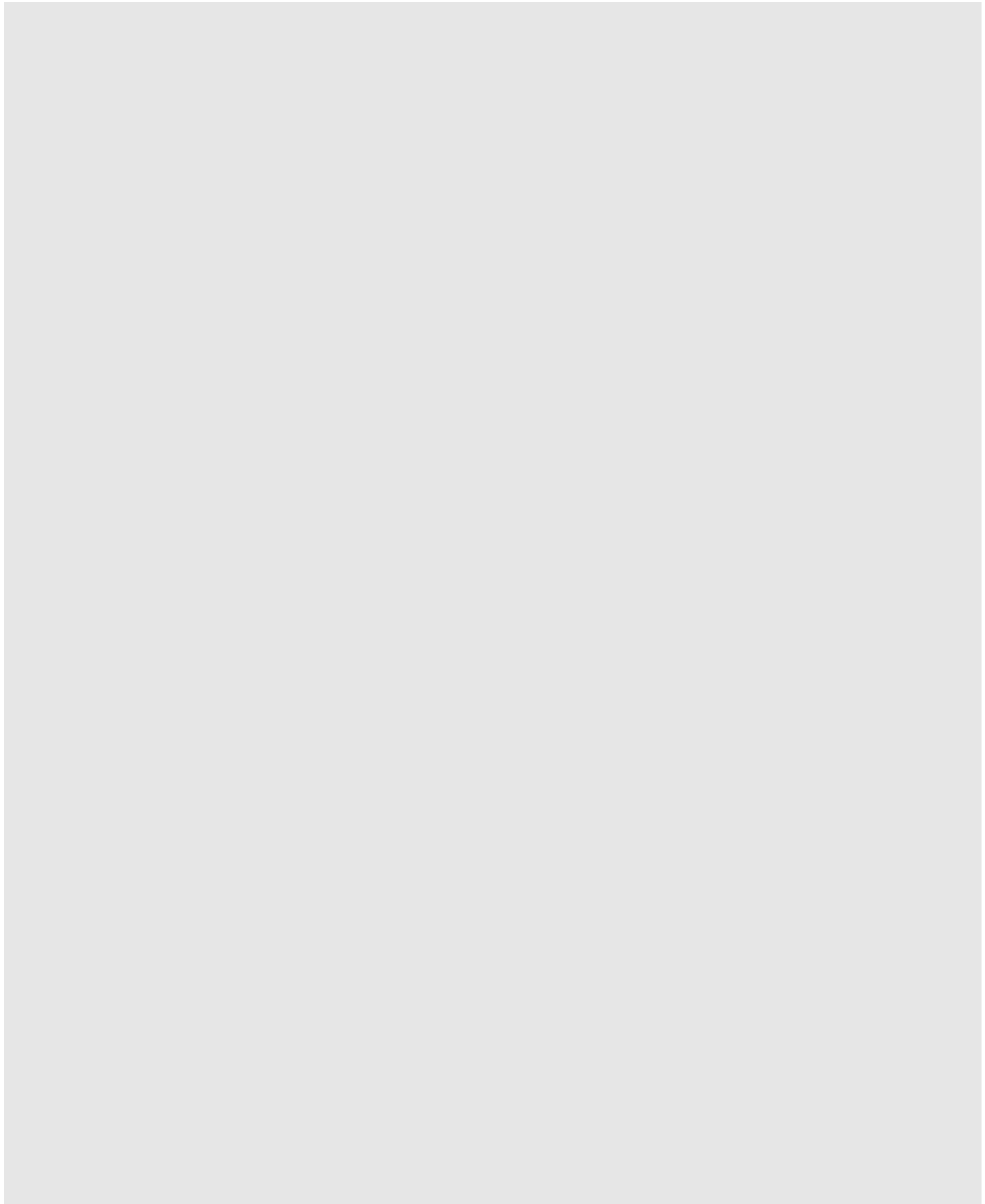
Confessions Of A Dangerous Mind (R) — Television made him famous, but his biggest hits happened off screen. Young, energetic and focused on a top career in the television industry, Chuck Barris finds himself lured into the secretive world of the CIA. As Barris basks in the glamour of two worlds — entertainment and espionage — his life spirals out of control. Stars Sam Rockwell as Chuck Barris.

Dreamcatcher (R) — Jonesy, Henry, Pete and Beaver were just kids in a small town in Maine when they found the courage to save a strange boy named Duddits. In doing so they gained a new friend and uncanny powers. Now the four are men with separate lives and problems. When they reunite for an annual visit to a hunting cabin in the north woods they are overtaken by doom and must soon face a deadly alien force.

The Hunted (R) — L.T. Bonham (Tommy Lee Jones) and Aaron Hallam (Benicio Del Toro) square off in this story about a mentor and his student who has gone over the edge. Hired to track down his former student, an AWOL Special Forces soldier who has taken to killing hunters in the forest, Jones wrestles with his legacy.

The Recruit (PG-13) — Al Pacino and Colin Farrell star in this explosive thriller about the CIA — how trainees are recruited, how they are prepared for the spy game and what they learn to survive. As the suspense builds toward a gripping climax, it soon becomes clear that the CIA's old maxims are true — "trust no one" and "nothing is what it seems."

Herald Union classifieds



Sports and leisure

Golfers get individualized instruction

With the spring season off to a warm and beautiful start, the month of May is the perfect time to get a head start on your golf season. The Armed Forces Recreation Center Resorts encourages beginners and seasoned swingers to get on the greens with their Early Bird Special May 5-9, 12-16 and 19-23.

The Early Bird Golf Week includes five days of instruction, equipment, video analysis, unlimited golf course play and an end-of-week tournament starting at the package price of \$189. Youth golfers and children wishing to learn the game of golf are also welcome, making the week a family vacation alternative.

"We are extremely lucky to have such a beautiful golf course open to service members and their families," said Dave Chaffin, AFRC Golf Course Manager. "Regardless of how your round of golf may, or may not be going we definitely have a panoramic backdrop that makes it all worthwhile."

The nine-hole course in Garmisch, Germany, sits in the shadow of Germany's highest mountain, the Zugspitze. The course also features a driving range, an additional three hole par-3 course, and a full-service restaurant called The Nineteenth Hole.

Golf Weeks run Monday through Friday, and cover all aspects of the game. Monday mornings professional instructors place participants into classes based on skill level. Beginners start at the driving range to learn the basic golf shot and other fundamentals. As skills progress, the students are ready to

learn full swings, chipping, putting and trouble shots. The week ends with a friendly best ball tournament.

"We know that the main reason guests come to stay with us is to unwind from daily life," said Richard LeBrun, AFRC Resorts in Europe General Manager. "A week on our golf course will definitely provide the type of

relaxation many are looking for."

For the established links lovers, the AFRC golf instructors spend time observing the students' play and give tips on how to lower players' scores. Whether you are looking to eliminate an ugly slice or sink the fringe putts, you will be surprised how much personal instruction can help.

"Our golf instructors' teaching skills rank as high as the more costly golf schools in the U.S.," said Chaffin. "We don't use any new gimmicks, just solid techniques to improve anyone's game."

The AFRC Golf School utilizes the latest technology to help analyze and improve any student's golf game. Video analysis allows the instructor to play back a student's swing so that he or she can see first hand where improvements are needed.

To book a Golf Week or receive info on any other programs or facilities, please call the Vacation Planning Center at civ (08821) 72 981, mil 440-2575 or visit the website at www.afrc-europe.com.

(Courtesy of Armed Forces Recreation Center Resorts in Europe)



Photo by Brad Hays

Golfers can enjoy the freeways and greens with views of the German Alps at Armed Forces Recreation Center Garmisch.

Three armed forces hotels in Europe to close early

by Harriet E. Rice

U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center Public Affairs Office

Three Armed Forces Recreation Center hotels in Germany — two at Lake Chiemsee and one in Garmisch — will close a year earlier than planned, Army officials announced.

The Von Steuben Hotel in Garmisch will close April 15, 2003. The Chiemsee Lake and Park Hotels will remain open through Labor Day and close permanently Sept. 2. This will allow a full summer of Lake Chiemsee operations, officials said.

"Because of the world situation, we've had to adjust our operations," said Pete Isaacs, chief operating officer at the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center, which operates four Armed Forces Recreation Centers. "We know this is a

disappointment to those who love Lake Chiemsee, but we can't continue to operate at a substantial financial loss."

In Garmisch, the Patton Hotel, the Alpenblick Golf Course, the outdoor recreation equipment checkout center, tours and the campground will remain in operation.

The Patton Hotel will stay open while the new 330-room hotel on Sheridan Kaserne is under construction and proceeding on schedule to open in October 2004, when the Army originally planned to end all operations in Chiemsee and the hotel operations in Garmisch.

"Many of our customers in Europe are deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom and their families are taking care of business at home. Understandably, vacations are on hold. As a result, current and predicted occupancy has fallen

dramatically," Isaacs explained.

Another factor that impacts operations is increased force protection, which also tends to reduce vacation travel. "And we've had to deal with a 19-percent devaluation of the dollar against the Euro, which is the currency used to pay for 50 percent of our operating expenses," Isaacs added.

The closures will reduce the number of available AFRC-Europe guest rooms from 343 to 119.

"During peak seasons, if we need additional rooms, guests will be referred to commercial hotels in Garmisch at rates comparable to those of the AFRC hotel," said Isaacs.

The Armed Forces Recreation Centers are open to all Department of Defense ID-card holders, active duty, reserve component, retirees and their families.

Sports shorts

Youth coaches wanted

Baumholder Youth Sports coaches are needed for all ages and sports. The perks are free training, certification and registration discounts for parents with children in the program. For more information, contact Central Enrollment Registry at mil 485-7003.

Races galore

The 284th Base Support Battalion Sports and Fitness Office hosts a 5-kilometer run and a 3-K family fun walk April 26 at Giessen's Schifflenberg Castle. Registration begins at the castle at 9 a.m. with the run starting at 11 a.m. Call mil 343-8206. The 221st BSB Sports and Fitness Office holds a 10-K Vineyard Fun Run April 26 in Dexheim. Call mil 334-5746 for details. The 414th BSB hosts 10-K runs at Cardwell Fitness Center May 31, Fliegerhorst Fitness Center June 9 and Büdingen July 4. Call mil 322-9045 for details.

Softball officials clinic in Hanau

Hanau Sports will conduct their 2004 Softball Officials and Scorekeepers Clinic April 29 to May 2 at Hanau's Cardwell Fitness Center starting at 6 p.m. each day. Everyone interested in officiating must attend. The clinic will include classroom and practical exercises. A unit-level pre-season softball tournament will be held in conjunction with the clinic May 3-4.

Rheinblick scramble

Wiesbaden's Rheinblick Golf Course holds a Friday Night Scramble April 25 at 6 p.m. Sign up to participate by 5:30 p.m.

Shades of Green hotel opens soon

Reservation lines are open for the new and improved Armed Forces Recreation Center hotel Shades of Green on Walt Disney World Resort.

Undergoing expansion and complete renovation since early last year, Shades of Green will reopen to welcome its first guests on December 15, 2003.

"We're accepting reservations for the new hotel right now," said general manager Jim McCrindle, who can hardly contain his enthusiasm as he describes the features of the new hotel. "We've already booked our first military wedding on December 29 for 250 people."

In addition to 299 new guestrooms, there is a new 500-space parking garage and 7,500 square feet of flexible special event space for reunions, weddings and other family-oriented social functions.

"The excitement starts long before you get to the front doors because when you turn into the driveway leading to the front of the hotel, the first thing you see are beautiful waterfalls," said McCrindle.

"There are five waterfalls: a tribute to each branch of service. Each service flag is positioned at the high point of its waterfall and at the highest point of all above the falls, the Stars and Stripes and the MIA-POW flags fly."

There are ten more suites. The small suites sleep six; the large suites sleep eight. More rooms conform to the specifications of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"The existing rooms have all had complete makeovers: new carpet, paint, curtains, mattresses and bedspreads," said McCrindle. All the rooms are exactly the same size and

everything is brand new, so there won't be the situation when a guest checks in and says 'please don't put me in the 'old' part of the hotel.'"



For all that, room rates continue to be affordable for a hotel on the resort grounds. Rates are on a sliding scale based on rank. The current E1-E5 rate is \$66.

That will go up \$4 to \$70.

"Within that 70 dollars are all the added features, which include refrigerators and television with wireless keyboards," McCrindle explained. Guests will be able to play games and order attraction tickets online from the ticket office.

To make reservations visit www.shadesofgreen.com or call toll-free 1-888-593-2242.

(Courtesy of U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center)

Sports and leisure

Take a hike

By Donald Seltzer
Special to the Herald Union

Spring is here and the number of events in the 104th Area Support Group is quickly growing. Full listings are on the Internet at www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil. Readers are asked, whenever possible, to pick up an extra set of event brochures and mail them via MPS to 104th ASG, Herald Union Volksmarch, Unit 20193 Box 0001, APO AE 09165-0001.

Weekend of April 18-21

Hünfelden-Ohren — This walk has the latest starting times of the Good Friday events listed. Hünfelden-Ohren is west of Bad Camberg on the edge of the Naturpark Rhein-Taunus. Take the Bad Camberg exit of Autobahn 3 to pick up unnumbered roads to Beuerbach and Ohren.

Start: Gemeinschaftshalle am Sportplatz **Times:** 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. (6 and 10 km) and 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. (20 km) **Trail:** Fairly hilly, woods **Award:** From previous event.

Waldböckelheim — Former Bad Kreuznach residents may want to join this event in their "old neighborhood." From Wiesbaden/Mainz take Autobahns 60 and 61 toward Bad Kreuznach, then connect with B-41 toward Kirn and the start at Waldböckelheim. From Idar-Oberstein use B-41 toward Bad Kreuznach.

Start: Bürgerhaus **Friday and Saturday:** 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. (5, 10 and 20 km) **Trail:** Somewhat hilly, fields and woods **Award:** Stuffed toy lamb.

Netphen-Deuz — This event east of Siegen and within reach for Giessen wanderers offers a surprise gift to every 50th participant. From Giessen use Autobahn A-45 toward Siegen and exit at Wilnsdorf. Follow IVV signs on unnumbered roads to Deuz.

Start: Turnhalle der Hauptschule **Saturday and Sunday:** 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (6 and 11 km) and 8 a.m. to noon (20 km) **Trail:** Very hilly, woods **Award:** Model truck.

Wiesbaden — This event features a Saturday-only swim. Use Autobahns 66 and 643 to reach Wiesbaden, continue on Schiersteiner Strasse and turn left at the 2. Ring. The start is just past the Dotzheimer Strasse intersection. Watch carefully for IVV directional signs.

Start: Hallenschwimmbad Kleinfeldchen (swim) and August-Hermann-Francke-Schule (walk) **Saturday:** 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (6 and 10 km, plus swim) and 8 a.m. to noon (20 km) **Sunday:** 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (6 and 10 km) and 8 a.m. to noon (20 km) **Trail:** Somewhat hilly, mostly stroller-friendly, fields, woods and neighborhoods **Award:** From previous events (walk) or certificate (swim).



Morbach-Bischofsdhron — Here's a Monday walk for readers in Idar-Oberstein. Use B-422 and B-269 west and north to reach Morbach, then pick up an unnumbered road to Bischofsdhron.

Start: Gemeindesaal **Monday:** 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. (5 and 10 km) and 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. (20 km) **Trail:** Hilly, but stroller-friendly, woods **Award:** None. A children's Easter egg hunt takes place at the 5-km control at 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m.

Weekend of April 26-27

Bockenau — This event is due west of Bad Kreuznach on the year-round, permanent Hunsrück trail system. Drivers should follow B-41 toward Kirn, pick up an unnumbered road at Waldböckelheim and head northwest to Bockenau. From Idar-Oberstein use B-41 toward Bad Kreuznach to connect with the unnumbered road at Waldböckelheim.

Start: Bockenauer-Schweiz-Halle **Saturday:** 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. (6 and 10 km) and 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. (20 km) **Sunday:** 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. (6 and 10 km) and 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. (20 km) **Trail:** Fairly hilly, woods **Award:** Stuffed toy hedgehog.

Katzenelnbogen — Expect a pretty walk in the Naturpark Rhein-Taunus northwest of Wiesbaden. Use Autobahn 3 toward Limburg, exit at Bad Camberg and follow an unnumbered road to Beuerbach, Ketterschwalbach and Panrod. Change roads to head toward Burgschwalbach and Zollhaus and connect with B-274 to reach the start.

Start: Stadthalle **Saturday and Sunday:** 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. (5 and 10) and 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. (20 km) **Trail:** Fairly hilly, fields and woods **Award:** From previous events.

April 30 to May 2

Mainz-Gonsenheim — Wiesbaden's readers have an opportunity to enjoy the local scenery. Take the Mainz-Gonsenheim exit on either Autobahn 60 or 643 and follow IVV direction signs.

Start: Karl-Geib-Haus at Kapellenstraße 44 **Wednesday:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (5 km) and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (10 km) **Trail:** Fairly flat, stroller-friendly woods and fields **Award:** From previous events.

Wiesbaden-Gräselberg — Wanderers in Mainz and Wiesbaden can enjoy another nearby event with a late weekday start time. From Schiersteiner Kreuz (Autobahns 66 and 643) drive north toward Wiesbaden, exit at Wiesbaden-Dotzheim and turn right (east) onto Erich-Ollenhauer-Straße. Watch for IVV direction signs leading to the start on Wörthersee Straße.

Start: Sportgelände des SC Gräselberg **Wednesday:** 4-6 p.m. (5 and 10 km) **Thursday:** 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (5 and 10 km) **Trail:** Hilly, but paved, residential areas and woods **Award:** From previous events.

Weekend of May 3-4

Dietkirchen — This event offers a triathlon in the area north of Limburg with walking and cycling trails at Dietkirchen and swimming at nearby Offheim. Bike rental and

shuttle service will be available. Take Autobahn 3 toward Köln and exit at Limburg-Süd. Take B-3 to Lindenhof and an unnumbered road to Eschhofen and Dietkirchen. Watch for IVV direction signs.

Start: Bürgerhaus in Dietkirchen and Hallenbad in Offheim **Saturday:** 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. (5 and 10 km, plus cycling), 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. (20 km) and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (swim) **Sunday:** 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. (5, 10 and 20 km plus cycling) and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (swim) **Trail:** Hilly, woods **Award:** Aroma pot for walking events and certificate for triathlon.

Weiler — This walk is part of the year-round *Rundweitwanderweg* in the beautiful Hunsrück area. From Wiesbaden, Mainz and points east take Autobahn 60 to Bingen and Autobahn 61 toward Koblenz. Exit at Stromberg and head toward Waldalgesheim to reach the start.

Start: Rhein-Nahe-Halle **Saturday and Sunday:** 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. (6 and 10 km) and 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. (20 km) **Trail:** Fairly hilly, woods **Award:** From previous events.

Weekend of May 10-11

Konz — This walk due south of Trier is convenient for readers in Baumholder, Idar-Oberstein and Neubrück. It's also part of a three-country permanent trail system. A special *Weltwandertag*, or World Wandering Day, certificate will be given to participants.

Take Autobahn 1 toward Trier, connecting with B-51 to Konz and the start.

Start: Saar-Mosel-Halle at the Schulzentrum **Saturday:** 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. (5 and 10 km) and 7 a.m. to noon (20 km) **Sunday:** 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. (5 and 10 km) and 6 a.m. to noon (20 km) **Trail:** Unknown **Award:** From previous events.

Weekend of May 17-18

Daxweiler — This is the club's second-ever event in the Soonwald forests west of Bingen. From points east take Autobahns 60 and 61 past Bingen. Exit at Stromberg to follow unnumbered roads and IVV signs through Warmsroth to Daxweiler.

Start: Hause der Gemeinde **Saturday and Sunday:** 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. (5 and 10 km) and 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. (20 km) **Trail:** Hilly, mostly woods **Award:** None.

Wörsdorf/Taunus — This event north of Wiesbaden on the edge of the Naturpark Hochaunus offers wooded trails with scenic views after a long, uphill start. Take Autobahn 3 toward Limburg, exiting at Idstein to follow B-275 and an unnumbered road leading to Wörsdorf. From Wiesbaden and Mainz use B-417 and B-275 north toward Limburg and Idstein to Wörsdorf.

Start: Gemeindehalle **Saturday and Sunday:** 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. (6, 11 and 20 km) **Trail:** Very hilly, woods **Award:** Stuffed toy seal. Questions? Send email to volksmarch@hotmail.com.



On stage in Frankfurt

Frankfurt's English Theater presents the David Auburn play "Proof" through April 30. Performances of the Alan Ayckbourn comedy "Things We Do for Love" takes the stage May 10-31. For ticket information call civ (069) 2423 1620. The theater is at Kaiserstr. 52, a short walk from the Frankfurt Hauptbahnhof.

AWAG to meet

American Women Activities Germany will host its four-day Spring Conference at



Annie Lennox performs at the Alte Oper in May. See right for details.

the Armed Forces Recreation Center in Chiemsee May 4-8. Cost is \$450. Registration deadline is April 20. Send email to awaghessen@yahoo.com for information.

One-acts in K-town

The University of Kaiserslautern Theater Group will perform two one-act plays in English, "Ruling Passion" and "The Car," in the University's Audimax building April 29, May 2 and 3. Tickets are €5 for adults, €4 for students. For details send email to imuench@rhrk.uni-kl.de.

Swinging in Hanau

The Schwartze Acht Big Band brings swing to Hanau's Culture Club May 4. Tickets are €10. Call civ (06181) 520 520.

At the Alte Oper

Neil Young will perform solo at Frankfurt's Alte Oper May 1. Jazz notables Charlie

Things to do

Hayden and Pat Metheny take the stage May 6. The Aury n

Quartett will perform works by Britten, Haydn and Beethoven May 8. Hudson Shad sing a capella May 14, Annie Lennox performs solo May 15 and Buena Vista Social Club master Ibrahim Ferrer will appear May 16. The great Anoushka Shankar will perform with ensemble May 20. For tickets call civ (069) 1340 400.

Medieval treat at Ronneburg

The Middle Ages come to life at Burg Ronneburg April 30 during Walpurgisnacht celebrations beginning at 8 p.m. A market, music and fire shows are featured. A recreated conclave of medieval knights featuring jousting and period music will feature German and Czechs enthusiasts May 1, 3 and 4. Ronneburg is in the hill country west of Gelnhausen and south of Büdingen.

Fests and markets

Springtime Easter markets are in full bloom featuring local food and drink specialties, handicrafts and musical performances. Frankfurt's Dippemesse runs through May 4 at the Festplatz. The Bingen Osterkirmes invites visitors April 20-27. The Hamburger Fischmarkt in Aschaffenburg highlights local specialties from April 22 to May 4. Darmstadt welcomes day-trippers to Frühjahrmesse on the Messeplatz from April 25 to May 4. Sample Spargel, the white asparagus synonymous with springtime, during the Gerauerland Spargeltage in Gross-Gerau beginning April 26 through midsummer.

Digging dinosaurs

American paleontologist Dr. David Gillette will discuss the excavation of the largest dinosaur remains ever discovered, Seismosaurus, at the Kaiserslautern Gartenschau April 15 at 7 p.m. For details and directions send an email message to info@gartenschau-kl.de.

Dealing with deployment in Dexheim

By David Ruderman

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

The war on Iraq has affected Dexheim Elementary School students as it has the children of soldiers across the 104th Area Support Group, said principal Ora Flippen-Casper.

"I think because of all that's happening, what we're trying to do here is provide normalcy in their lives. Some parents are being deployed and others are expecting to be," she said.

"We've been trying to encourage the parents to talk to their kids. One student will tell another student 'my mom is going or my dad is going.' They're talking about it. I don't think some of the parents know how to talk to their kids about it. They may be familiar with parents deploying downrange, but this is different. This is really different," she said.

"You better believe it comes up in my classroom discussions with them," said school counselor Beckie Frantz. "Whatever the topic, it'll come out—they'll work it into the discussion we're having. Some of the kids might have fears. They think 'it could happen to me.' Kids imagine worst case scenarios lots of the time. I try to reassure them."

"My kids talk about it a lot, what it means to go to war, what happens when you go," said third-grade teacher Ruthelyn Turner. "It's more like we're taking things in stride. They're more upset at home and they bring it in here. I've noticed some of the kids are having learning problems or are off-task. We try to have more open discussion time."

Children have exhibited more aggressive behavior since the start of the war, said Flippen-Casper. Younger children have complex emotional responses to such an event and to the charged atmosphere in which they live, though they often have difficulty expressing their feelings.

"It's tough. Army Community Service works with our staff on how to react to ques-



Photo by Karl Weisel

Dexheim Elementary School fifth-graders relieve stress while reading in the library.

tions of discipline. We have to look at the situation differently and decide what we're going to do. We're not talking about the war. We're talking about feelings and letting the kids express themselves," she said.

"We're experiencing some difficult situations. When parents find out that because they don't have any child care provider, and they're having to go back to the States to leave the kid with grandma or someone like that ... And they don't know how long they're going to be gone."

Staying engaged

Keeping students engaged helps, said Flippen-Casper. A Fun Fest was held April 3 in conjunction with ACS and the school's

long established partnerships with local German schools have created other opportunities to deflect the children's interests away from current events. She recently polled children in the cafeteria about activities they would like to have at school. "We want them to relax and not stress out," she said.

Frantz has helped organize a drive to gather helpful articles for deploying soldiers that will be sent downrange through the USO. "At least they'll have some kind of connection and be doing something good for someone else—and that's good," said Flippen-Casper. The drive continues through the end of the month.

"As more deploy we're going to do the yellow ribbon—make individual yellow rib-

bons and weave them into one big one. Our class is going to adopt a soldier, probably one of the parents," said Turner.

Many of Dexheim's children go directly from the school to Youth Services and spend several more hours there until a parent picks them up. "One of my concerns is that we're so small that there are no extracurricular activities to keep the kids busy," said Frantz. "If people want to get involved, we love to have volunteers here. We have to be a community here," she said.

"We have a wonderful PTSA," said Flippen-Casper. "It's a small community so you'd think you might not have a PTA or various activities, but they're really, really good." PTSA president Tracy Magnan, who is also Dexheim's host nation teacher, has organized two book fairs at the school. One is under way through April 18.

Mentoring works

"I'm proud of our mentoring program," said Flippen-Casper. "We had difficulties getting military or community members to come in for it, so at a faculty meeting we took it on ourselves. I said, 'We can't wait for that. We have to do it ourselves.' So everybody had to mentor a student or a group of students—the nurse, the TAG [Talented and Gifted] teacher, the PE teacher—they're all working with kids."

The primary emphasis is on reading. "This is in line with our School Improvement Plan," said Flippen-Casper. "We feel reading is basic for everything they'll be doing. Once they have those accomplishments, know that they can do it, they do better."

Flippen-Casper herself works with one second-grader, and said she can see the positive effects that the individual attention can have. "I can see he has very good self-esteem because he's been reading. If we can see some progress with kids who need help, we know we're moving forward," she said.



Photo by Mary Prost

Of Thee I sing

Neubrück Elementary School fifth-grader Patrick Wadsworth reads his thoughts on "What the flag means to me" while fellow fifth-grader Chelsea Brown holds a flag that was flown from the Pentagon after the 9-11 terrorist attacks.

School bits

Registration for 2003-2004

Pre- and re-registration for children who will attend 104th Area Support Group schools beginning in September gets under way this month. It is mandatory that all returning students re-register. For information on required documentation and times to register contact your child's school.

Scholarship news

Exchange New Car Sales awards financial support to Department of Defense Dependents Schools seniors committed to volunteer and community service activities. Citizen Scholarship applications can be downloaded online at www.encs.com; click on Company News. Completed applications must be dropped off with guidance counselors or at area ENCS offices by April 28.

No parking at Hainerberg

Heightened force protection levels mean tighter security measures at 104th Area Support Group schools. In Hainerberg Housing that means no vehicular traffic in the schools parking lot. Access is through the pedestrian gate between the elementary and middle school only.

Books galore

Dexheim Elementary School hosts a Clue Into Reading book fair through April 18 featuring books for kindergartners through 12th-graders, software, posters and more. April 16 will be Family Day featuring refreshments and readings from 5-7 p.m. Hanau Middle School's PTO sponsors a book fair from April 18 to May 2. All are welcome.

Student art on display

Weaving What We Are, an exhibition of student work organized by the Overseas Art Education Association in collaboration with the Kaiserslautern District Superintendent's Office, is on display in the Kaiserslautern Rathaus, Willy-Brandt-Platz 1, across the street from the Pfalztheater, through April 22. All are welcome.

New DoDDS address online

The Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe website has moved to www.eu.odedodea.edu. The site was redesigned according to Department of Defense Education Activity guidelines to offer simplicity and easy navigation. Comments and suggestions are welcome via the feedback link. (Courtesy of Department of Defense Dependents Schools Europe)

